



COLLEGE STATION POLICE DEPARTMENT INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Scott McCollum, Chief of Police

FROM: Lt. Rodney Sigler

REF: 2016 Use of Force Analysis

DATE: April 12, 2017

Reviewed
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5/5/17

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Chapter 42 Section 6 (d) as well as Section 10(a) of the College Station Police Department Policies and Procedures Manual require an annual analysis of documented uses of force. The following is an analysis of force used by officers and staff in 2016.

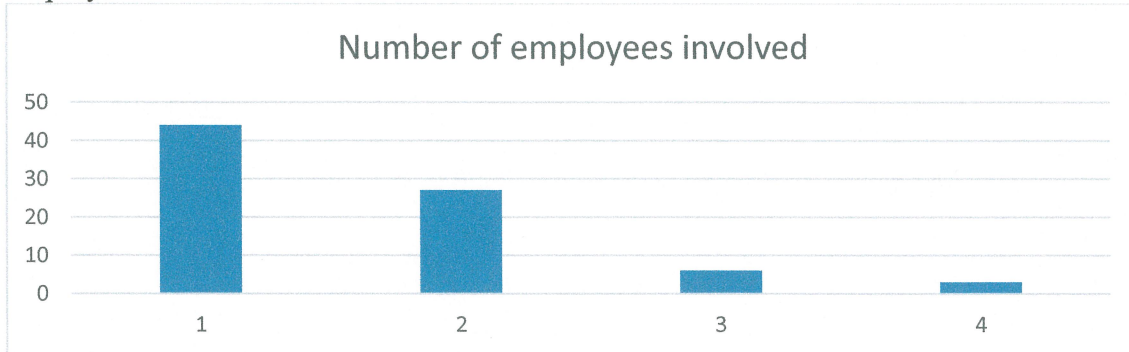
BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

In analyzing the data, there are several subsets, which reflect variations of the total number of use of force incidents. For the purpose of this report, a use of force incident is an event or episode during which force was used. The force incident may involve multiple persons, multiple officers, and multiple types of force. For example a felony stop conducted by three officers on a vehicle with four occupants during which all officers involved pointed their weapons at someone is one force incident. The variations may be a result of multiple employees using force on one individual, an employee using multiple types of force on an individual, or a combination of employees using various action of force on groups of people. Though the numbers vary slightly, the data accurately reflects the trends of the department and can be utilized to ensure that the College Station Police Department is engaged in the best practices possible in an effort to reduce use of force instances, injury, and liability concerns. The following more closely dissects the data captured in the use of force incidents to determine any potential trends.

In 2016 there were a total of 80 uses of force incidents involving 97 subjects and 128 employees (59) distinct employees). In 2015 there were 102 use of force incidents involving 125 subjects and 161 employees (63 distinct employees). The 2016 use of force is down 22% from 2015. This decrease coincides with and may well be explained by the use of body worn cameras.

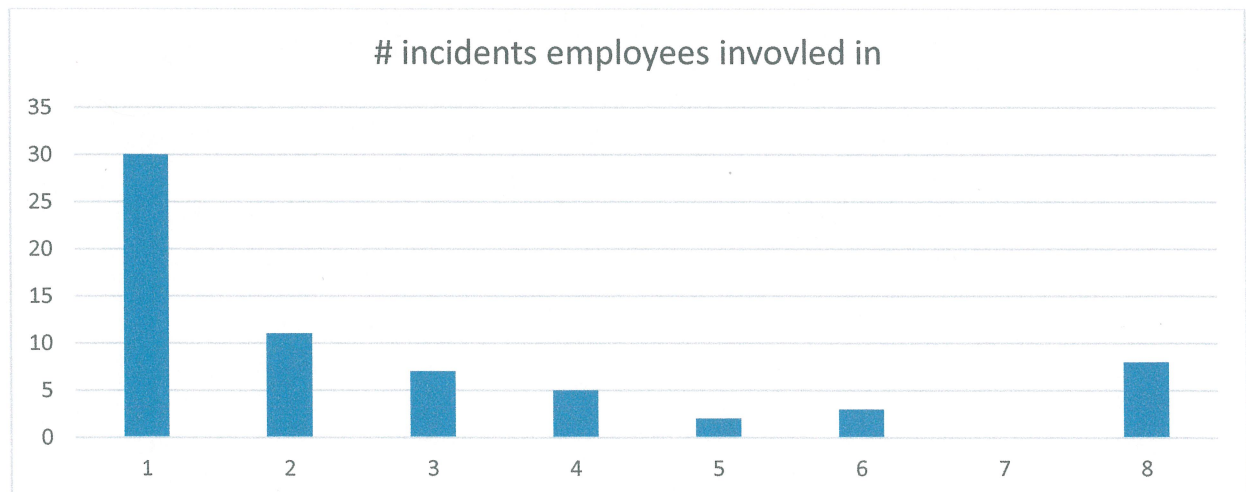
Amount of Employees Involved in an Incident

There were 44 incidents (55%) where there was only one employee involved in using force. Thirty four percent (27 incidents) involved two employees. Six involved 3 employees and 3 involved four employees. In 2015 67% of incidents involved one employee, 19% involved two employees.



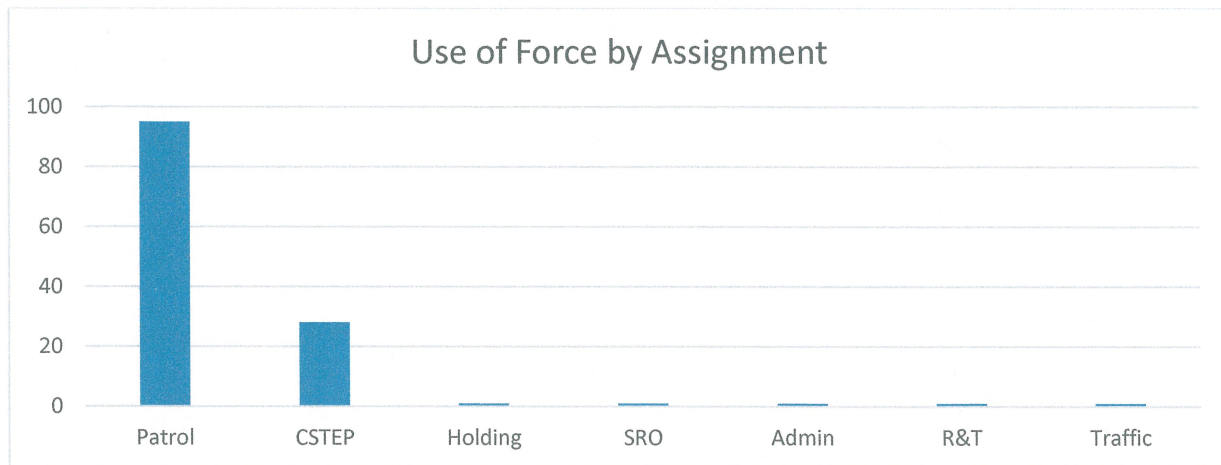
Amount of Incidents by Distinct Employees

In 2016, there were 59 individual employees that were involved in a force incident. Thirty employees (51%) were only involved in one incident. Eleven employees (19%) were involved in two force incidents, while 7 employees (12%) were involved in three force incidents. The most force incidents per employee in 2016 was 8 and that was one employee. This is different than 2015 where 35% of employees were involved in one incident, 24% in two and 27% in three force incidents.



By Assignment

Of the 128 various employee involvements, 74% involved personnel assigned to Uniform Patrol and 22% involved officers assigned to CSTEP. CSTEP involvement in force incidents continues to increase. It was 8% in 2014 and 17% in 2016. This speaks to the continued growth of the entertainment district. There was one force incident for each of the other 5 assignments shown.



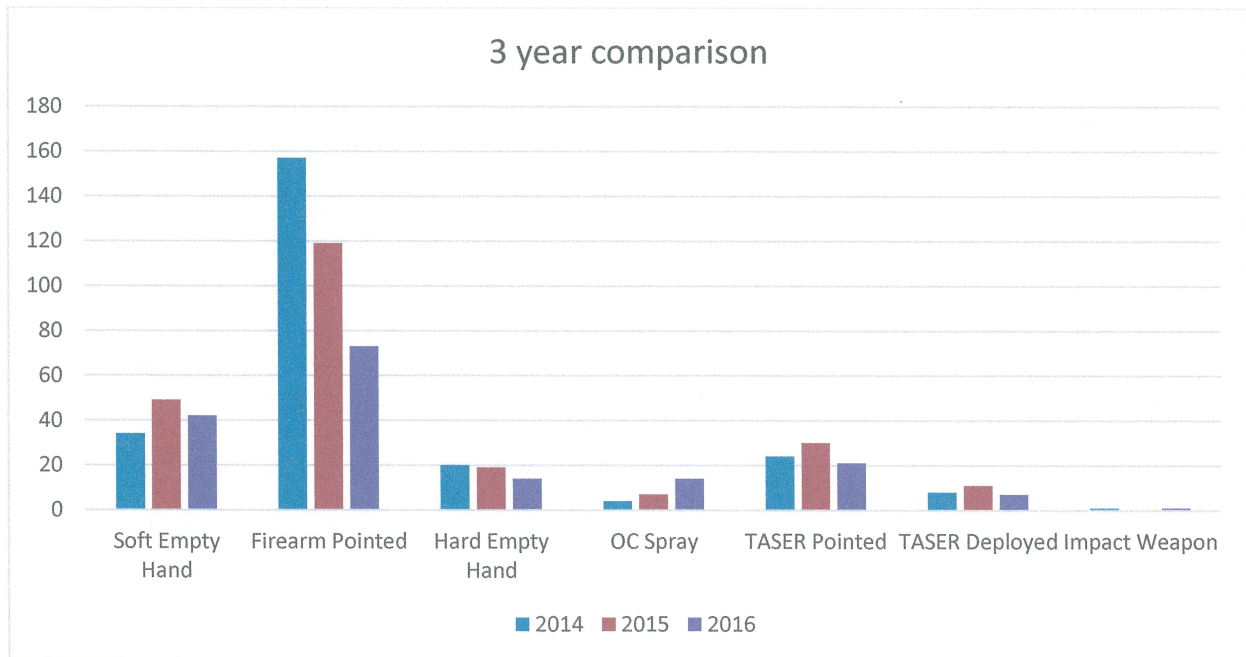
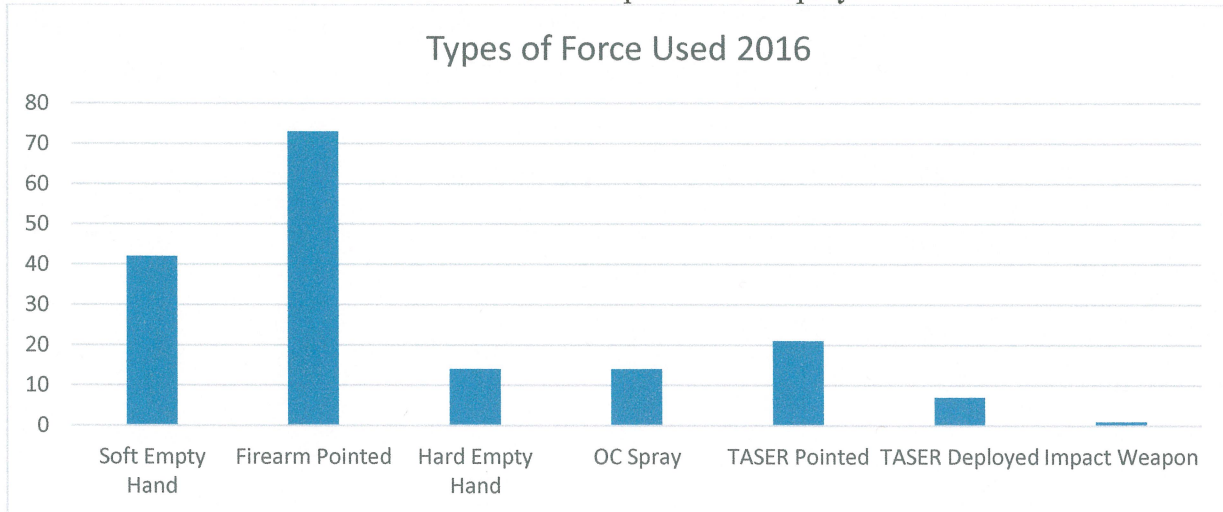
Complaints and Disciplinary Action

Of the 80 force incidents, there were four incidents that were investigated due to external excessive force allegations. All four complaints were exonerated. There were several use of force reviews in which supervisors were able to coach officers on more effective ways to communicate and utilize force techniques and tactics but none that rose to the level of violations and disciplinary actions. This is different from 2015 when there were three incidents in which disciplinary action was taken for either unjustified use of force or some other violation that warranted discipline.

Type of Force Used

In 2016 the most common use of force was firearm pointed. There were 73 occasions in which officers pointed a firearm at a person which is down from 119 in 2015 and 157 in 2014. Some of the drop in firearm pointed may be related to the increase percentage of employees who carry tasers. There were 21 taser pointed instances and 7 taser discharged instances. These numbers are also down from 2015 which had 30 instances of tasers pointed and 11 discharged. Soft empty hand control was the second most common force with 42 instances. This compares to 49 in 2015 and 34 in 2014. The use of OC spray is up significantly with 14 instances compared to 7 for 2015 and 4 for 2014. Hard Empty Hand is down from 19 in 2015 to 14 in 2016. There was one

instance in 2016 of an impact weapon used which is rare. There have only been three such instances in the past five years. In an examination of a three year comparison the most notable difference is that pointing a firearm has dropped to less than half of what it was in 2014. In 2016 all use of force incidents are down with the exception of OC spray.



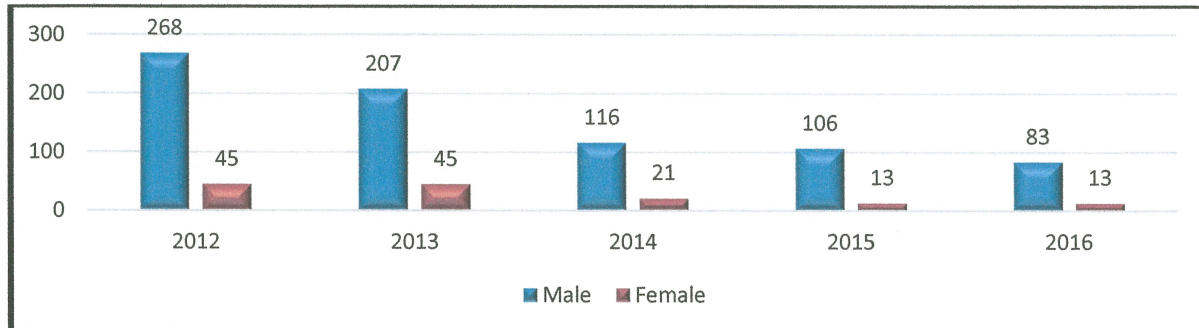
Injuries

In 2016 there were 24 reported injuries as a result of an employee's use of force. This marks a 29% decrease from the 34 reported injuries in 2015. All of the injuries were listed as minor.

except for two. Minor injuries consisted of taser probes, lacerations, abrasion and bruises as well as complaint of pain. There were two that were listed as moderate and both reported a broken bone. One was a broken finger and the other was a nasal fracture.

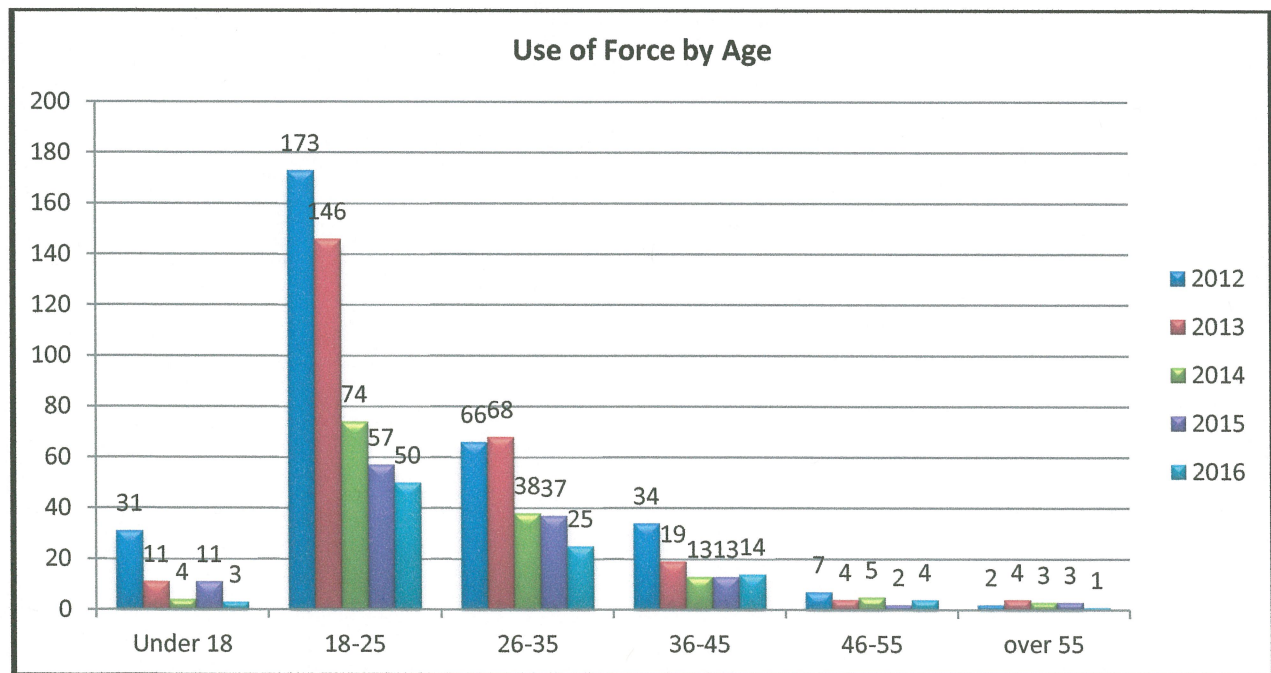
Gender

In 2016, 86 % of the persons on whom force was used were male. Over the past five years, the percentage of males involved in force incidents has remained relative consistent, ranging from 82% in 2013 to 89% in 2015.



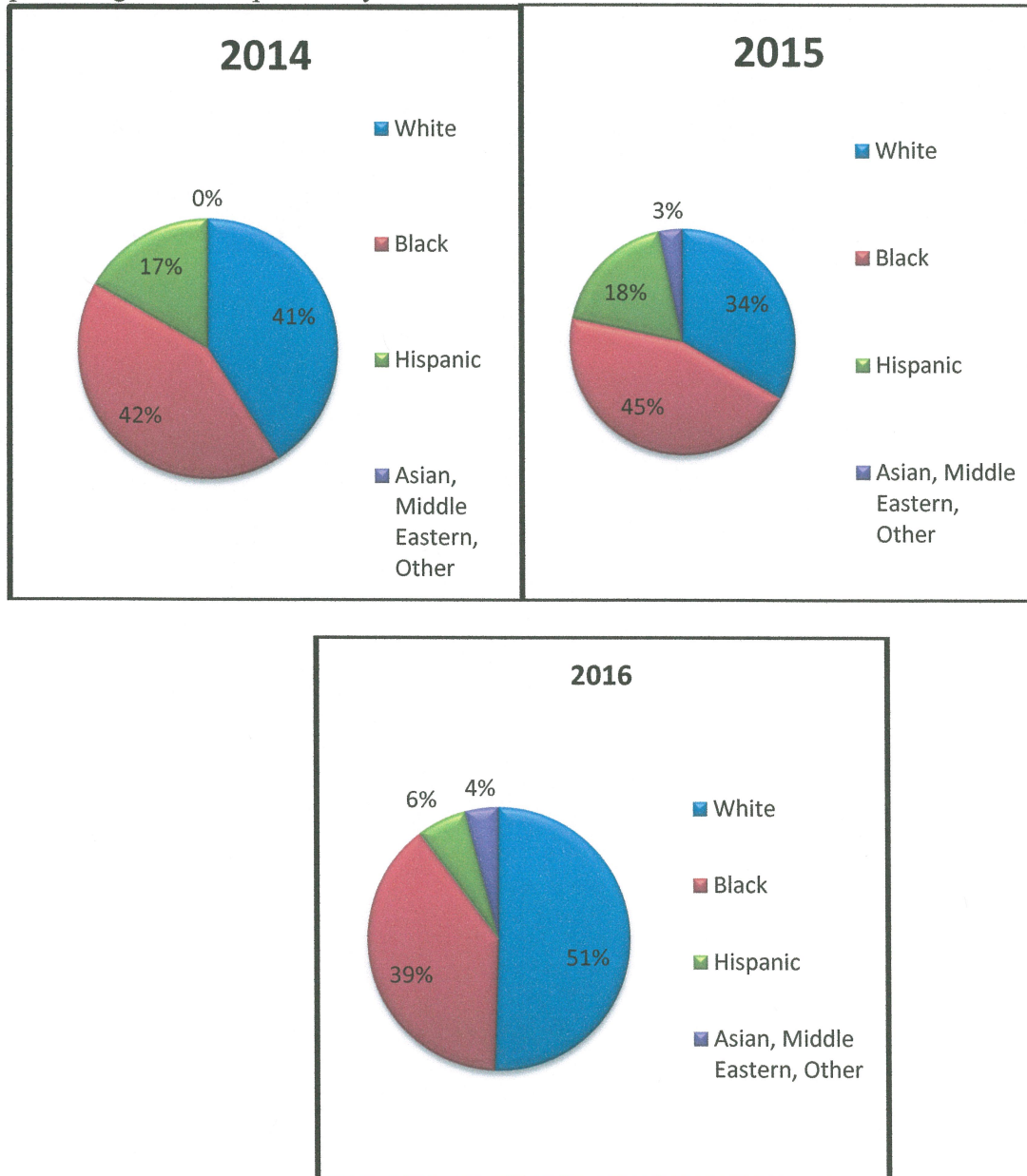
Age

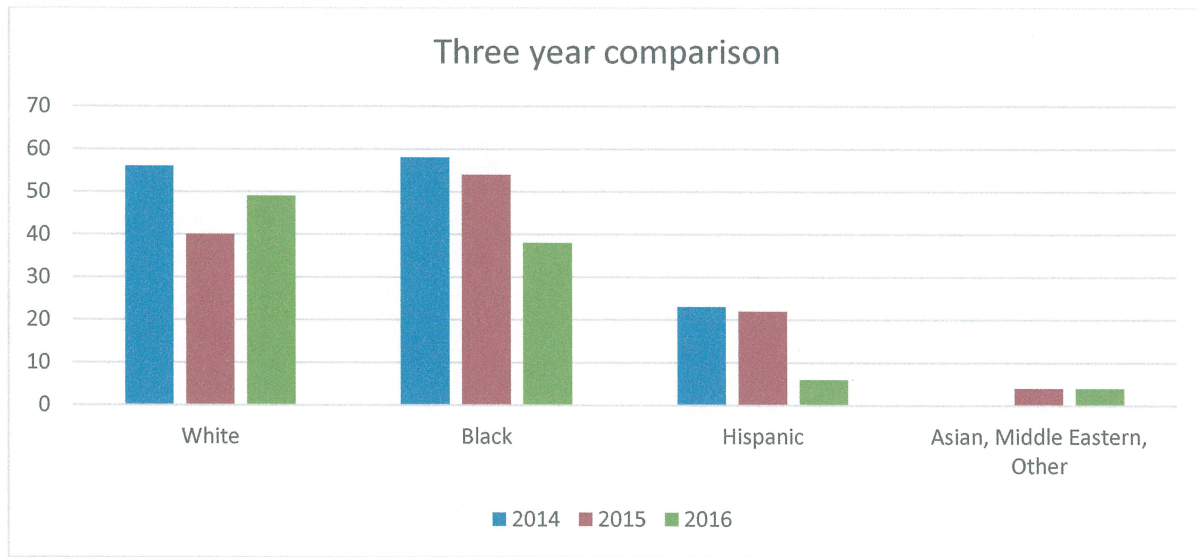
In 2015, persons between the ages of 18-25 years contributed to 52 % of the use of force incidents and is consistent with the data from previous years.



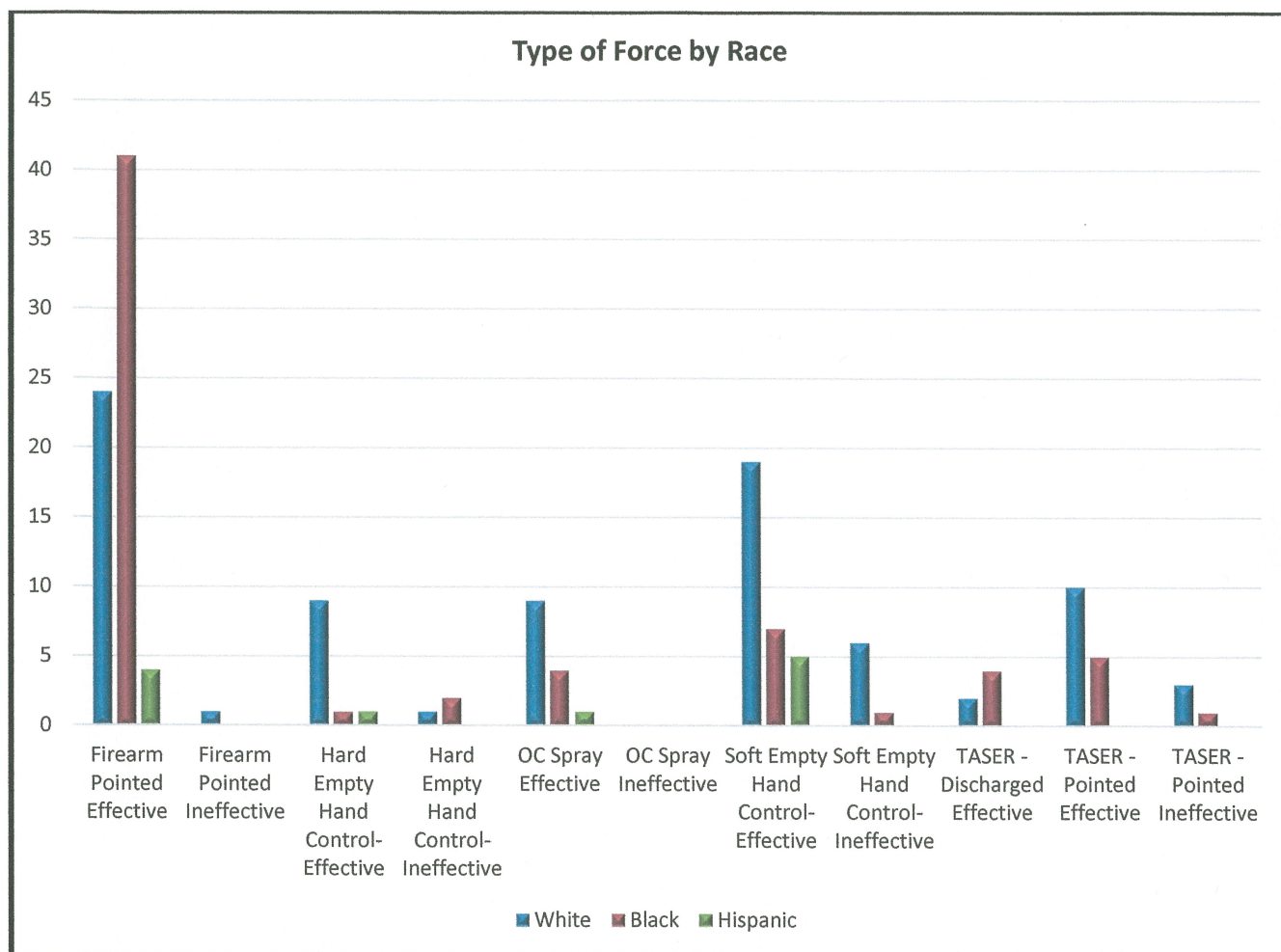
Race

In 51% of reported incidents, force was used on someone classified as white followed by 39 % black. Force used against Hispanic persons was 6% of the total while all others accounted for 4%. This is a departure from the trend of the last few years. In 2014 and 2015 force against Blacks were an increasingly higher percentage than force against Whites. This trend was closely examined and it was theorized that some of that was accounted for with high numbers of people at one force incident skewing the overall numbers. 2016 seems to support that theory since the numbers are more in line with the population. Force against Hispanics was a much lower percentage than the past two years.

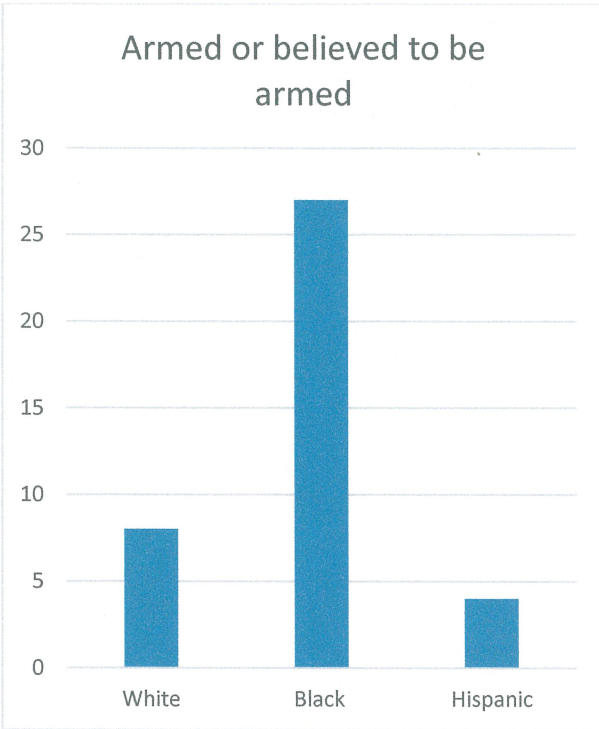




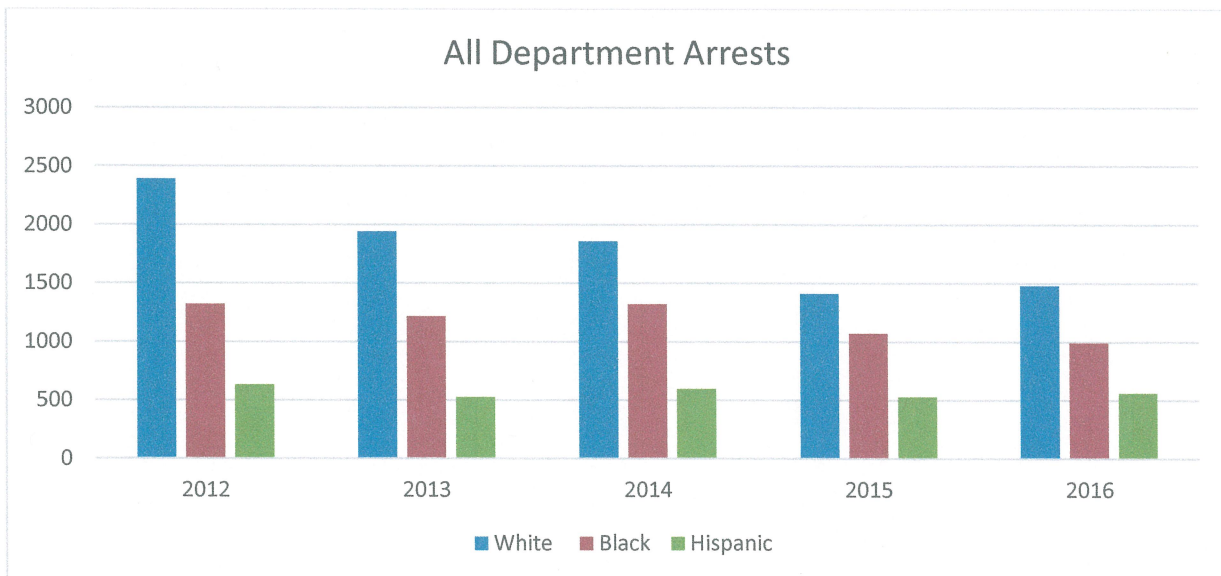
An examination of force types broken down by race shows that 56% of the instances where a firearm was pointed it was at a black person. In 34% of those instances it was a white person and 5% were Hispanic. In 2015 those percentages were 53%, 27% and 18% respectively. As mentioned in the 2015 report, this number can be skewed by single cases in which multiple officers and multiple subjects on the same force incident causes a large jump in the numbers. In 2016 there were four of the 80 use of force incidents that caused these type of numbers. 2016- UOF 032, 054 and 077 involved multiple subjects and multiple officers that accounted for 22 of the 41 instances where firearms were pointed at black persons. 2016- UOF 067 was a multiple officer and multiple subject incident that resulted in 8 instances of firearms being pointed at white persons. If you remove those instances blacks had 19 instances or 48%, whites had 17 or 43% and Hispanics have 4 or 10%. This compares to 2015 with the outlier removed to blacks 42%, whites 37% and Hispanic 21%.



Further analysis by race and subject action, indicates that 69% of instances where the use of force report shows the subject in the category of armed or believed to be armed the subject was black. In 21% the subject is white and in 10 % the subject is Hispanic. This too can be skewed by multiple subject and multiple officer incidents. Two of the four previously mentioned calls fit this category and if you removed those the numbers are 10 instances for blacks, 8 for whites and 4 for Hispanics. These numbers are consistent with 2015 with the exception of Hispanics whose numbers across the use of force reporting were lower in 2016 than has been the case.



Data related to all arrest by subject race was also examined. Over the past five years, the percentage of persons arrested as it related to race remained fairly consistent. Whites accounted for 47-55% of all arrest, blacks were 30-36% and Hispanics were 14-19%.

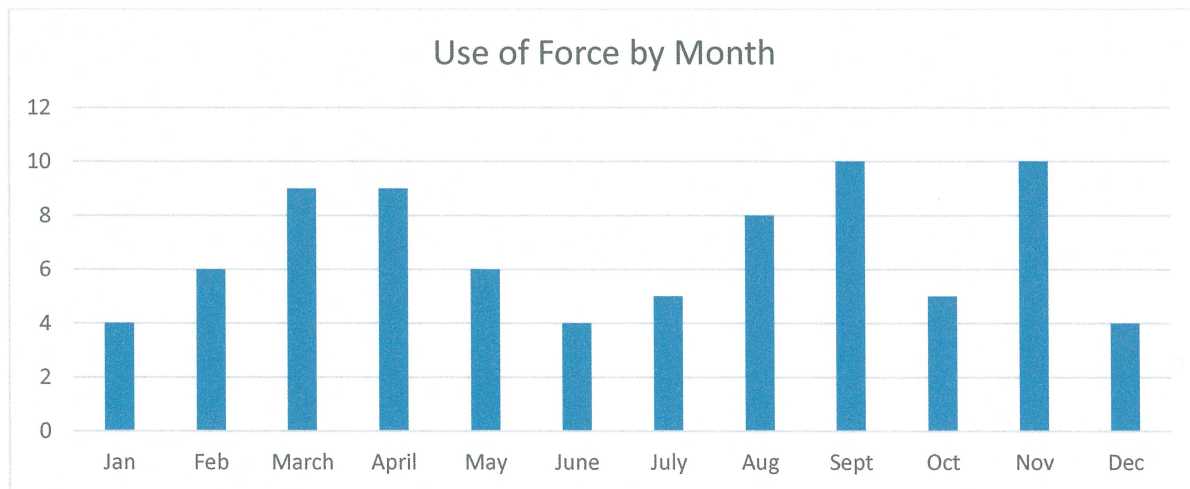


Also examined was the racial make-up of the community. Data collected from the 2010 Census shows that College Station is 77% white, 6.8% black and 14% Hispanic. Census data from 2000

showed College Station was 80% white, 5.4% black and 10% Hispanic. It should also be noted that in the 2010 Census Bryan showed a population of 64% white and 18% black. This is included because many of the people that we come in contact with are from Bryan.

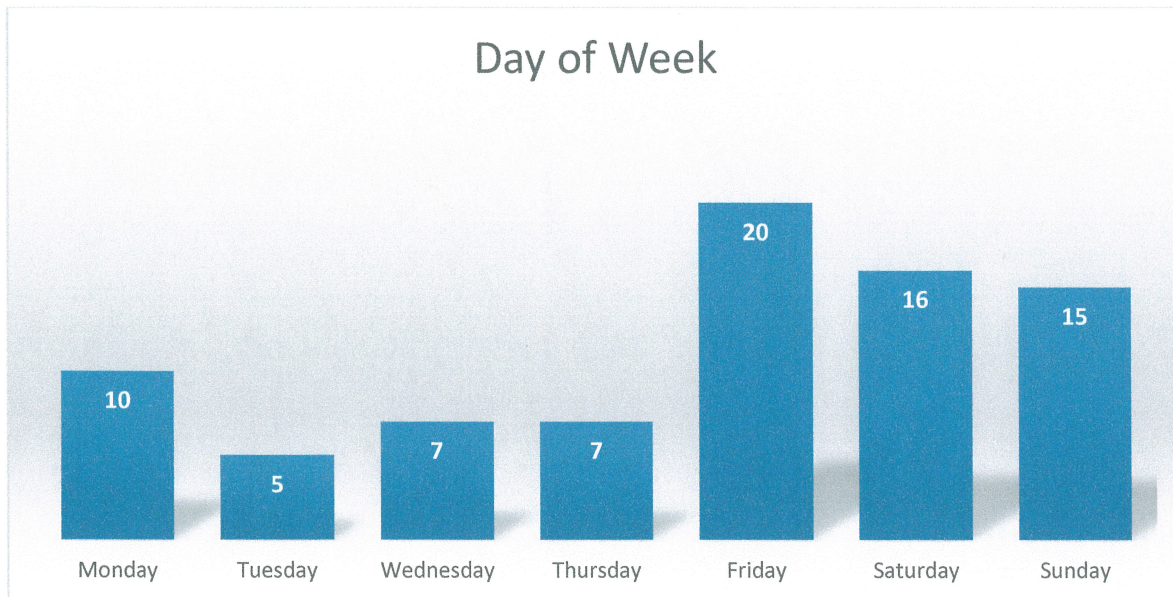
Month

September and November had the most force incidents. This coincides with football season which is traditionally a busy time of year.



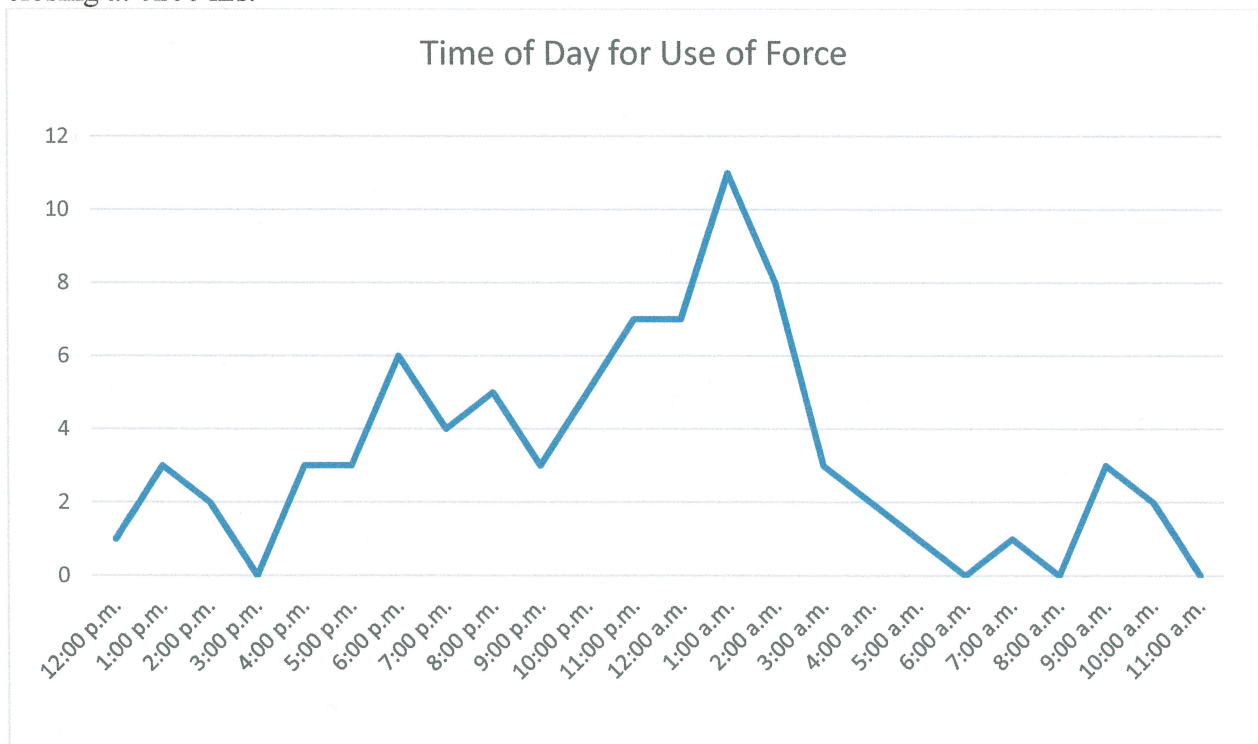
Day of Week

As you would expect, more than half the force incidents occur on the weekend (Fri, Sat, Sun). This is consistent with the area of town where most force incidents occur and revolves around establishments that serve alcohol.



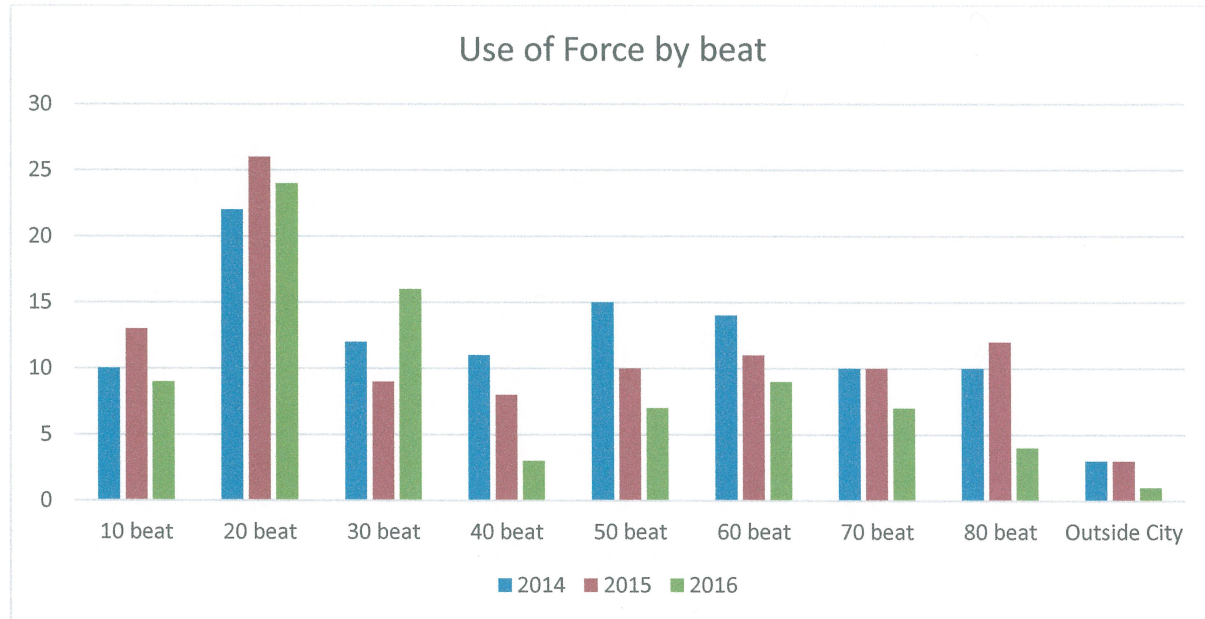
Time of Day

The time of day for the majority of use of force incidents has been consistent over the years. Between midnight and 0300 is most common time that force is used. This coincides with bars closing at 0200 hrs.



Beat

The Northgate entertainment district continues to have the highest concentration of use of force incidents. Since Northgate is in 20 beat that is the beat with the most incidents with 30% of the overall incidents.



Force Incidents Involving Alcohol and/or Drugs

In 2016, half of all reported force incidents involved a person who was under the influence of alcohol or drugs. This percentage has been the same for the past three years.

Conclusion

The use of force incidents for 2016 were significantly lower than they have been in past years. Since the criteria for completing a use of force report changed in 2013, the use of force incidents have been slowly decreasing until 2016 at which time it dropped by 22%. There were 80 use of force incidents in 2016 and 102 in 2015. As mentioned before, it appears that the reduction in use of force mirrors the proliferation of body worn cameras. It is possible that these devices serve to deter force situations both on the part of the officer and the subject.

Aside from the lower overall use of force the data for force in 2016 appears to be consistent with the past few years of data with two notable exceptions. The percentage of force against black persons was lower than it was for white persons. The past two years the trend was that black subjects were in more use of force incidents than white subjects. White subject were in 51% of the incidents compared to 34% in 2015, while black subjects were in 39% compared to 45% in

2015. Hispanic subjects were significantly less likely to be involved in use of force incidents in 2016 as they represented only 4% of the total when they were at 18% in 2015.

Last year we conducted an in-depth analysis of force against black persons to try and explain the increase for 2014 and 2015. There were several theories mentioned and the need identified to monitor this trend. Some of the theories such as skewing data with multiple officers and multiple subjects appears to explain some of that. The trend in 2016 has turned back to more of what we would expect in percentages therefore I will not examine all of those theories again.

Overall the data suggests that a force incident is more likely to involve a young male and that 20 beat is the most common area for the incidents to occur. It is also most likely to happen on the weekend and in the early morning hours of Saturday and Sunday during football season.

It is significant to note that 100% of the use of force incidents in 2016 were deemed justified through the thorough review process. I propose that body worn cameras also benefit in this area since the supervisor has better access to review all of what happened in force incidents.

I have reviewed our use of force policy and observed the procedures that our officers are following. Overall it appears that the use of force system in place is working well.

Recommendation

I have no recommendation of changes at this point.